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SUGAR SWEET KOOL-AID 10 QUART $2.59

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CAKE MIXES 18½ OZ. BOX 79¢

COLGATE 100 PUMP MOTOR OIL (10W30) $1.99

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CHESS PIE 36 OZ. PIE $2.29

King's Sandwich BREAD 22 OZ. LOAF 2 FOR 99¢

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Red House Event

Air show to honor 'Squeek' Burnett

By BILL SHERROD

In a rustic farmhouse off Route 24 near Concord lives one of the great figures in aviation history, Col. Vincent "Squeek" Burnett.

Burnett, a Lynchburg native whose name graced headlines across the United States from the 1930s through the mid 1950s, will be honored at an air show sheduled for this Sunday afternoon at Red House.

Proceeds from the air show will be used to benefit the Red House Volunteer Fire Department and the New London Civil Air Patrol.

Burnett, who first began flying in 1929 at the age of 15, counts among his greatest achievements the Freddie Lund Trophy, awarded to the premier aerobatic flyer in the country, which he won at the Miami All-American Air Maneuvers in 1939.

Shortly thereafter, Burnett won the President's Cup, another prestigious award, at aerobatic competition in Cuba.

And these achievements were registered in the era preceeding computer-controlled flight.

"There were no precision-flight textbooks or instructors back then," Burnett says of aerobatic flying in the pre-World War II period. "You learned by straight flying, by trial and error."

One of Burnett's more famous aerobatic maneuvers, one which he himself developed in the 1930s, was the inverted ribbon act, in which Burnett flew his airplane upside down just above the ground and cut a ribbon suspended 12 feet above the ground between two poles.

With the advent of World War II, Burnett's flying abilities were used by the Army Air Force in refining aircraft such as the P-39N and the P-51. Burnett received the Air Medal for his contributions to combat performance in the Air Corps.

As technical adviser to Gen. Jimmy Doolittle from 1942 through 1944, Burnett was instrumental in gaining acceptance of the B-26 Marauder medium bomber as a combat weapon among U. S. fighting aviators.

The B-26 was a high-performance aircraft given the "widow-maker" because of the number of pilots who died flying it when it first came into combat use.

Burnett was assigned the task of instructing Air Corps student pilots in proper handling of the B-26, and in so doing, gaining the young pilots' confidence in the plane.

His efforts were overwhelmingly successful, and, as cited in an officer's letter of recommendation which preceded Burnett's receiving the Air Medal, contributed to the success of the American armed forces in World War II.

Burnett remained in the military until 1950, moving from the propeller age into the jet age of aviation, then went into the jet age of aviation, then went into the reserves upon leaving active duty.

As can be expected with any man of such rich background, "Squeek" Burnett has many interesting tales to tell.

For example, there's the story behind his first solo flight, when he was 16 years old.

"I was working as a 'hangar rat' at an airfield," Burnett recalls. He had received flight instruction but had not yet flown solo. When the other workers at the airfield went to lunch one day, Squeek decided it was high time he flew solo. So, he took an airplane parked near the runway and proceeded to take off and practice solo flying.

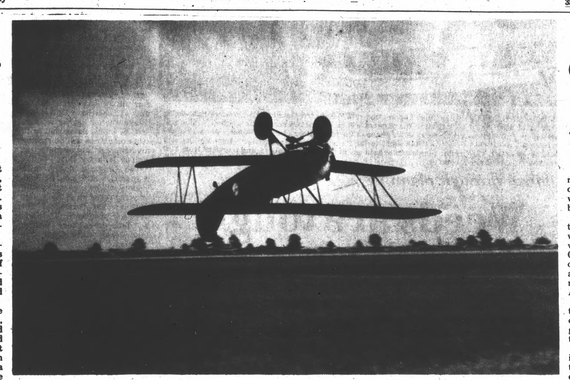
"When his co-workers and the [illegible] lunch, they noticed one plane and one "hangar rat" were missing.

Col. Vincent "Squeek" Burnett

Burnett retired from aviation two years ago, in practice but not in spirit.

Perhaps the essence of Vincent "Squeek" Burnett was best summed up by his close friend Scotty McCray in the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival Air Show booklet in 1966:

"As long as man flies, as long as our world exists in this envelope of air, the Colonel to come, 'Squeek' to most and Mr. Burnett to a few, will always be [illegible] or precision aerobatics performed without a debt of gratitude to him."



COL. VINCENT "SQUEEK" BURNETT is shown here performing his most famous maneuver, the "Inverted Ribbon Act." In which he flew his plane upside down just above the ground, and cut a ribbon suspended 12 feet above the ground between two poles. This photo, taken at a 1940 air show, appeared in newspapers across the country which subscribe to Associated Press wire services.

Downtown Site

Central Fidelity will close office

Central Fidelity Bank will merge its two Appomattox offices into one bank location at what has formerly been the bank's Hillcrest Branch.

Announcement of combining the banks into a single location was made by Marvin J. House, vice president and manager of Central Fidelity's Appomattox operation, and Jim Nolen, advisory board, chairman. The move will be made effective August 1.

House said that the decision to merge the offices was based on being able to provide greater convenience for customers of the bank at Hillcrest.

"Adequate parking is an important element in being able to serve customers quickly and efficiently, and we have the facilities to do this at Hillcrest," House said. "Its location is easily accessible to customers throughout the Appomatox area, and at Hillcrest we are also able to offer a full service drive-in, which is another important convenience to today's customers."

House added that the bank's loan activity has always been centered at Hillcrest, and that merging the bank branches into one location will be helpful to customers who wish to combine business having to do with their loans and other bank transactions in one trip to the bank.

As of now, no plans have been made for the office space currently housing the downtown branch of the bank, according to House. It will probably be put up for sale, he added.

House noted that impovements planned for the Hillcrest office include opening of the three drive-in lanes full time, addition of a teller to the teller lines, and possible expansion of parking facilities sometimes in the future.

Activities set for Sunday

An air show will be held this Sunday at Red House, beginning at 3 p.m., according to John Dudley Barksdale, who is organizing the event.

The show, which will be held at "Red House International Airfield," a private grass airstrip owned by Barksdale, will be in honor of Col. Vincent "Squeek" Burnett, a retired aerobatic pilot currently living near Concord.

Proceeds from the show will go to benefit the Red House Volunteer Fire Department and the New London Civil Air Patrol.

According to Barksdale, there will be a number of exhibitions of interest to area residents.

C. B. Messer, who recently won a first place trophy at an international aerobatics conference meet, will be on hand with his Pitts Special aerobatic aircraft.

Albert Miles, a veteran air show performer flying the area air show circuit since World War II will be on hand with his famous clipped-wing Cub.

Chuck Canaday, a sky writer, will be on hand with his S-2 Pitts Special.

Kenneth Cooper, Gerald Gravitt and Dave Vanaman, the New London Skydivers, will jump from a mile high and unfurl the American flag as they descend.

In addition, there will be other displays and exhibitions at the show, according to Barksdale.

Gates open for the show at noon. In case of rain, the show will be held the following Sunday, July 19.

Lions meet Thursday

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet on Thursday evening, July 9 at 6:30 at Maude's Restaurant. All members are urged to attend.

Local group slates show

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

The Appomattox Railroad Station, better known as 'The Depot, has been around for a long time, since 1890 in fact. It was station headquarters for the Norfolk and Western Railway until it was abandoned more than a station.

Way back, in the early days, the Depot was, more or less a 'social center.' It was a kind of community meeting place. It was not unusual, according to some of the older citizens of this area for young people, and 'oldsters' alike, to gather at the station to watch the trains come and go.

One prominent Appomattox woman remembers it was "the thing to do...to go down to the Depot and have your picture taken if front of the train with your best beau.!"

The Depot was special then, it's special now. It's headquarters for Depot Dramatics Inc.

The idea for Depot Dramatics came into being in the Appomattox County High School teachers lounge approximately two years ago when two ACHS teachers, Joyce Sweet and Debbie Rush, began kicking around the idea of a community playhouse They liked the idea and so did everyone with whom they talked. So they made plans.

When it came time to choose a location for the community theatre, someone suggested the Depot. It was in the center of things; it was not being used and the fact that it was 'free' was, most likely, a deciding factor. Mrs. Sweet and Miss Rush appeared before the were granted permission to use the facility which had been given to the town when it was no longer needed by N&W.

The Depot was in no shape to be used as a theatre and the interested group had to get to work. They constructed a stage, put in their own lights and provided chairs.

Whether or not the group would be able to undertake a second presentation depended entirely on the success of the last year's play.....it was a smashing success!

The community response to Depot Dramatics was overwhelming. For the three-night run, the Depot was filled to capacity with an appreciative audience. Consequently, Depot Dramatics Inc. began to make plans for the play for this summer's presentation, "Guys and Dolls."

"Guys and Dolls", a musical fable of Broadway, is the story of a notorious gambler and a very proper mission girl who fall in love with each other and have to beat the odds. The cast includes approximately 25 performers, a combination of veterans and relative newcomers.

Musical numbers "Luck, Be A Lady," "Bushel and A Peck" and of course the theme, "Guys and Dolls" were made famous by the original presentation.

In addition to serving as director, Joyce Sweet is taking a lead role. Debbie Rush is assisting with direction and is musical director as well. Bonnie Hays, a local dance teacher is choreographer and also finds the time to perform in two roles in the play.

THE DEPOT DRAMATICS 'gang' seem to be having a jolly old time....actually they're rehearsing for their next production, "Guys And Dolls" which will open on July 29.

"Guys and Dolls", the second presentation of Depot Dramatics Inc., will open July 29 and run through August 1. Beginning each evening at 8:00 p.m., tickets will be $3.00 for adults and $2.00 for children six and under. Children under six are admitted free.

It is the hope, not only of Depot Dramatics Inc., but also of those who attended last summer's performance, that the summer theatre in Appomattox will be a continuing and growing endeavor.

The Depot? Entertainment... yesterday and today!

'Hot Shot Rey'

Local horse is barrel-race champ

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

Clayton C. Bryant, of Clayton C. Bryant Land Co., Appomattox, owns three Barrel Horses. One of them is a twelve year old, Hot Shot Rey, who has earned the reputation of being the "Best All-Around Horse" in the world. A quick visit to the trophy-filled office of Bryant will verify that statement. The room is literally filled with impressive trophies.

When asked if he really took the business of racing seriously or if it was just a 'passing fancy', Bryant laughed as he commented, "I'm quite serious about this business of horses and racing, I love it. If anything, I'm afraid I take it more seriously than my work.

It often seems that I spend more time with the horses than I do with my work."

Hot Shot Rey, the horse that is bringing Bryant so much recognition, has ten straight wins in registered competition.

"There are only about five horses in the world who can run with Hot Shot Rey; he set a time in the ring, 14.9, in 1978 in Columbus, Ohio, at the Quarter Horse Congress. No other horse has ever run this time." The Quarter Horse Congress is the largest show of its kind in the world.

"Hot Shot Rey is twelve years old," says Bryant, "and he's in his prime since a good horse runs well in competition until around 18 or 20 years."

Bryant's pride and joy, Hot Shot Rey, was World Champion in Pole Racing in 1976; Reserve World Champion in Barrel Racing in 1976 and 1977.

In 1978 Hot Shot Rey won second at World in Barrel Racing held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; again in 1979 he came in second at World which is held each year in Oaklahoma City.

At the State Fair in Richmond this year, Hot Shot Rey was winner in all three barrel races; he captured three first place in Washington and several weeks ago and two wins in Chesterfield recently.

W. I. Scruggs of Buckingham, is the jockey who rides Hot Shot Rey to a winning finish line and Bryant's daughter, Sharon Bryant Moore, is responsible for giving Hot Shot Rey a workout three days a week to be sure he stays a winner.

"I remember my first horse," laughed Bryant, "I bought a horse and a truck! A fair horse, I guess you would call him. I just kept buying until I found Hot Shot Rey. He's a winner."

Hot Shot Rey will be competing in the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio in October and in the World Champion Quarter Horse Show in Oklahoma in November.

Clayton Bryant and "Hot Shot Rey", the 12-year old Barrel Horse who has earned the reputation of being the "Best All-Around Horse" in the world. Bryant, who takes the business of racing very seriously has an office full of impressive trophies to prove just what a winner that horse happens to be. [Photo by Allen Austin.]

Local Canneries

Schedules change

Canneries located in Appomattox County will reduce the number of days for processing food this week. The new schedule is as follows.

Pamplin Cannery - Tuesday only.

Appomattox Cannery - Thursday only.

The change in schedule has become necessary since the drought has reduced the yield of vegetables. This schedule will remain in effect until the volume of food increases to a point where more days will be needed,

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Rain can work miracles. It is raining as I write (Monday morning) and already vegetation seems greener. The lawnmower's vacation will end tomorrow. My first glad is bursting into bloom. Six blooms remain on the magnolia. The first zinnia was a red one.

* * *

A salute to Main Street, Appomattox, where several business places have flower buckets out front. Bros. Francis Elliott is proud of the cooperation for this project. Town authorities also gave it a boost. There are many ingredients in the recipe for A Growing Town, and I submit that Appomattox has an abundant share.

* * *

Appeared to me that the Fourth of July weekend was the quiet side. Statewide, traffic deaths were few. Coastward 'twas wet. Business seemed to be good for those places open. And it is a long way to the next holiday, Labor Day, Sept. 7.

The present lack of big league baseball does not mean we are without sporting activity. Little League and Babe Ruth League baseball is popular here. I can hear the shouting from Martha Street, and should join the fans attending. And golf has its regulars.

TV has supplied us with plenty of tennis and the USA made a great showing at Wimbledon. I note the name. Wimbledon Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club. How about that, and wonder if there has ever been a croquet match on TV? Croquet is no slower than golf and surely there are expert players.

* * *

Never know what you might find when browsing around in old desk drawers, closets or attics. In a drawer I found a genuine Confederate two dollar bill.

* * *

Interest still runs high in the American Civil War. Two British historians have been in this country studying and touring and included Appomattox in their trip.

* * *

Takes a lot of reading for me and there is not such thing as catching up, especially with the classics. Once again am trying to read Dante's Divine Comedy and mixing it in with Sir John Froissart's Chronicles. Froissart was born in 1337 and became one of the great historians and writers. When the going gets too heavy for me, I reread Robert Service's poems on The Yukon. If you are short on reading material, try our fine County Library.

* * *

Last week I got my notes mixed and stated that the water level at Holiday Lake was down ten feet. Inches would have been more accurate and rains should have it back to normal. And I have a note to ask which is correct...Bugge Island Lake or The John H. Kerr Reservoir?

* * *

Thanks for reading and seeya around..